



**“Boosting Africa’s growth with Japan: From Start-ups to Major Companies”**  
Japan Special Room as a Side Event of the Africa Investment Forum 2023

Date and Time: 16:00-19:00, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023 (UTC+1) (Thursday)

Organizer: BDIR18 and PEXT, African Development Bank

Venue: Salle des Ambassadeurs in Palais des Congrès, Marrakech (Live streaming is available)

<b>Vimeo (English Channel)</b>	<a href="https://vimeo.com/event/3754855">https://vimeo.com/event/3754855</a>
<b>Vimeo (French Channel)</b>	<a href="https://vimeo.com/event/3754877">https://vimeo.com/event/3754877</a>
<b>YouTube</b>	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/@AfDBGroup/streams">https://www.youtube.com/@AfDBGroup/streams</a>

Languages: English and French

**Objectives:**

On 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023, the African Development Bank (AfDB) will host a Japan Special Room as one of the Side Events during the Africa Investment Forum 2023 (AIF2023) to discuss "Boosting Africa’s growth with Japan: From Start-ups to Major Companies." The Japan Special Room will include presentations and roundtable discussion focused on priority areas and themes of AIF2023.

The Japan Special Room aims to explore opportunities for boosting Africa's growth through partnerships, investments, and knowledge sharing. By bringing together key players from both regions, the session seeks to identify priority areas, discuss concrete measures for advancing projects, and raise capital for investment opportunities. Ultimately, the goal is to strengthen cooperation and create a conducive environment for sustainable economic development in Africa, leveraging the expertise and resources of Japanese investors, companies and public institutions.

**1. Presentation Sessions:**

**(a) Healthcare:** There will be 6 presentations from 1 fund and 5 start-ups active in Africa, covering topics such as new digitalization technologies, remote diagnostics, and data storage.

**(b) Energy and Infrastructure:** 7 presentations ranging from start-ups to major companies will focus on renewable energy, including proven technologies like solar power, as well as cutting-edge technologies such as green ammonia and hydrogen. Additionally, innovative infrastructure projects such as regional integration with road PPP will be discussed.

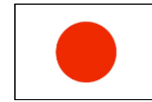
**2. Roundtable Discussion:**

A roundtable discussion will be held, inviting eminent Japanese public and private sector leaders to discuss ways to boost of Africa’s growth with Japan. The discussion will cover topics such as co-creation of the investment ecosystem between Africa and Japan, as well as concrete measures for advancing projects to bankable stages and raising capital.

**Background Information:**

The idea of Africa-Japan co-creating an investment ecosystem was initiated at the 8th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD8) in August 2022, where the President of the AfDB, Dr. Adesina, emphasized the need for increased Japanese investment and operations in Africa. Following TICAD8, the AfDB invited KEIZAI DOYUKAI (Japan Association of Corporate Executives), a professional association of independent business leaders/executives in Japan, to the Africa Investment Forum in November 2022 (AIF2022). During the AIF2022, the AfDB signed a Statement of Intent (SOI) with DOYUKAI to strengthen cooperation and business ties between Japan and Africa.

Based on the SOI, during the AfDB President's visit to Japan in April 2023, the AfDB co-organized a business event "Japan-Africa Investment Ecosystem Co-Creation Forum" with DOYUKAI. The AfDB also held a roundtable discussion with selected business leaders, focusing on new technologies related to energy and decarbonization, as well as innovative start-ups committed to contributing to the development agenda. The success of this Forum shed light on Japanese start-ups which have been increasingly looking towards Africa as a potential market for expansion by addressing social issues. Africa offers a growing consumer base, a rising young population, and abundant natural resources, making it an attractive destination for Japanese entrepreneurs. It has been also observed that large Japanese corporations are collaborating with a new wave of young Japanese entrepreneurs to explore the Africa market, utilizing their extensive global connections.



### Event Agenda

- Event MC: Mr. Solomon MUGERA, Director, Communication and External Relations, AfDB
- Event Facilitator: Mr. Naoshige KINOSHITA, OIC, Asia External Representation Office, AfDB

Time	Agenda	Speakers/Panelists
16:00-16:10	Opening Remarks	- AfDB President Dr. Akinwumi ADESINA
16:10-16:15	Photo Session	- All the Speakers and Panelists of Japan Special Room
16:15-17:00	Presentation Session 1: Health Sector (45 min session including 5 min presentations/comments from speakers and buffer time for speakers' introduction and housekeeping)	- Mr. Susumu TSUBAKI, Managing Director / Representative Partner, AAIC - Mr. Kenta HARA, CEO/Founder, AA Health Dynamics - Mr. Yoichi SHIMADA, CEO/Founder, Afya Connect - Ms. Ayako KASAI, CEO/Co-founder, Spiker - Mr. Kuniyuki FURUTA, CEO, SOIK Corporation - Mr. Masaki UMEDA, Director and Vice CEO, SORA Technology - AfDB Vice-President, Agriculture, Human and Social Development, Dr. Beth DUNFORD
17:00-17:55	Presentation Session 2: Energy and Infrastructure Sector (55 min session including 5 min presentations/comments from speakers and buffer time for speakers' introduction and housekeeping)	- Mr. Satoshi AKITA, CEO, WASSHA Inc. - Mr. Abu Zahed AZAD, International Marketing and Business Development Manager, KENS.CO; LTD - Mr. Koichi SATO, Founder & CEO, and Ms. Lina ROBERT, Africa Strategy Officer & Co-Founder, SUCRECUBE Japon Inc. - Mr. Takuya HIROSE, Technology Cooperation Manager, Steinmüller Engineering GmbH - Ms. Hiromi SUDA, Marketing and Business Development in Africa and APAC, Tsubame BHB Co., Ltd - Mr. Takuma TERAUBO, CEO & GENERAL PARTNER, UNCOVERED FUND - Ms. Airi IKEDO, Director and COO, Index Strategy, Inc. - AfDB Director, Energy Financial Solutions, Policy and Regulation, Mr. Wale SHONIBARE
17:55-18:05	10 min Break	
18:05-18:55	Roundtable Discussion: Feedback to the Presentation Sessions 1 and 2 from business leaders and large companies (50 min session including 5 min presentations/comments from speakers and buffer time for speakers' introduction and housekeeping)	Presentations - Mr. Ken SHIBUSAWA, CEO of & Capital and Co-chairperson, Global South Africa Committee of Keizai Doyukai - Mr. Tadao SAIDA, Corporate Officer, Managing Director, Sumitomo Corporation Africa (Pty) Ltd - Mr. Yusuke YAMAMOTO, Regional CEO for Africa and General Manager of Johannesburg Branch, Marubeni Corporation Comments/feedback - Mr. Tomonori TATSUMI, Chief Representative in Paris, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) - AfDB Executive Director Mr. Takaaki NOMOTO - AfDB Vice-President, Private Sector, Infrastructure and Industrialization, Mr. Solomon QUAYNOR
18:55-19:00	Closing Remarks	- AfDB Executive Director Mr. Takaaki NOMOTO

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